

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/032,492

Examiner

Justin T. Darrow

Applicant(s)

KIKUCHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed 12/09/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 10 and 21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 02 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/805,090.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-21 have been presented for examination. Claim 10 has been amended and new claim 21 has been added in a preliminary amendment filed 01/02/2002. Claims 1-9 and 11-20 have been canceled and claims 10 and 21 have been amended in an amendment filed 12/09/2004. Claims 10 and 21 have been examined.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made that the instant application is a continuation of Application No. 08/805,090, filed 02/24/1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,584,563 B1, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/301,397, filed 09/08/1994, now abandoned.
3. Receipt is acknowledged of a paper submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which paper has been placed of record in the file of Application No. 08/805,090.
4. Acknowledgment is made for the benefit of an earlier filing date of Application No. P05-303960 filed in Japan on 12/03/1997.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 10 and 21 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 10 is drawn to terminal equipment for cryptographic communication. The closest prior art, Hewlett-Packard Company (Marshall et al.), European Patent Application Publication No. EP 0281224 A2, discloses similar terminal equipment. Although Marshall et al. describe an enciphering unit enciphering a communication text which includes an address of the enciphering

Art Unit: 2132

unit on an external network (see page 6, lines 40-45; figure 2, item 37; message assembly with source section SC and destination section DN), they neither teach nor suggest a key storage configured to store keys in the enciphering unit necessary for a cryptographic communication, where the keys are stored together and each solely connectedly associated with one of a user and a group of users. This particular feature explicitly incorporated into independent claim 10 renders it allowable.

Claim 21 is drawn to a cryptographic communication method. The closest prior art, Mandelbaum et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,544,246 A, disclose a similar method. However, they neither teach nor suggest receiving a message at a destination, determining whether the address is correct and automatically deciphering the enciphered portion with a deciphering unit having the deciphering unit address responsive to the encipher identifier when the address is correct for the deciphering unit using a key associated with one of a user and group of users. This composite limitation explicitly incorporated in independent claim 21 renders it allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Terminal Disclaimer

7. The terminal disclaimer filed on 12/09/2004 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent

Art Unit: 2132

No. 6,584,563 B1 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Telephone Inquiry Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin T. Darrow whose telephone number is (571) 272-3801, and whose electronic mail address is justin.darrow@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barrón, Jr., can be reached at (571) 272-3799.

The fax number for Formal or Official faxes to Technology Center 2100 is (703) 872-9306. In order for a formal paper transmitted by fax to be entered into the application file, the paper and/or fax cover sheet must be signed by a representative for the applicant. Faxed formal papers for application file entry, such as amendments adding claims, extensions of time, and statutory disclaimers for which fees must be charged before entry, must be transmitted with an authorization to charge a deposit account to cover such fees. It is also recommended that the cover sheet for the fax of a formal paper have printed "**OFFICIAL FAX**". Formal papers transmitted by fax usually require three business days for entry into the application file and consideration by the examiner. Formal or Official faxes including amendments after final rejection (37 CFR 1.116) should be submitted to (703) 872-9306 for expedited entry into the application file. It is further recommended that the cover sheet for the fax containing an

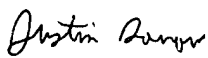
Art Unit: 2132

amendment after final rejection have printed not only "OFFICIAL FAX" but also
"AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL".

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

March 20, 2005


JUSTIN T. DARROW
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100